(d) the policy of the Government to protect and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the country and fresh initiatives proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) The Asiatic Society, Calcutta has reported that some valuable treasures and priceless items had vanished from Asiatic Society prior to taking over of the Society by the Government of India. The management of the Society had approached the Department of Culture for setting up of an inquiry commission under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952.

(b) The Society was asked to refer the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

(c) The Society has now informed that the Central Bureau of Investigation could not invoke its jurisdiction, since the alleged offence took place prior to 1984, when the Asiatic Society of Calcutta was not takenover by the Government of India.

(d) The institutions which are fully funded by the Government of India have introduced round-the-clock security and surveillance by deputing the security staff, as well as security forces, wherever necessary, and have also introduced scientific methods like Closed Circuit T.V., metal detectors etc. As far as preservation is concerned, the preservation of the objects are carried out in scientific manner through government laboratories and specialised agencies.

[Translation]

Bihar Hindi Granth Academy

534 SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the objective of Bihar Hindi Granth Academy and its achievements in the last three years;

(b) whether the Academy has been resorting to unauthorised publishing of unapproved books instead of the approved manuscripts of many writers during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons for such indifference and violation of rules; and

(d) the steps taken for publishing standard books and payment of royalty by improving the working of the Academy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) In pursuance of the decision to promote Indian Languages as the medium of instruction at the University level, Bihar Hindi Granth Academy was set up by the State Government in 1970 as an autonomous organisation. The Academy has produced 23 books in different disciplines during the past three years.

(b) No complaint has been received by the Central Government in the matter.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

[English]

National Libraries

535. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Libraries, libraries run by the State Governments and local agencies directly or with their financial aid, are suffering badly on account of rising cost of books and declining allocations of finances and fall in the value of rupee vis-a-vis foreign currency,

(b) whether the present state of affairs is choking the flow of new ideas and thoughts to the country and

(c) if so, the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Library is a State subject and as such the libraries run by the State Governments are to be provided funds by the States. However, the libraries which are fully funded by the Central Government are able to procure lesser number of books on account of rising cost of books and non-allocation of more funds due to financial constraints.

(b) and (c). The Working Group on Libraries and Informatics set up by the Planning Commission for the formulation of 9th Five Year Plan has recommended for more allocation of funds for the Libraries during the 9th Plan period.

National Institute of Computer in Kerala

536. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up the National Institute of Computer and Allied Technology in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the institute is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c). There is a proposal to establish an institute namely Rajiv Gandhi National Institute

of Computer and Allied Sciences (RAGNICAS) The Government is yet to take a decision in the matter, including the location

[Translation]

Dues Outstanding against State Governments

537 SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the action taken by the Government to recover the outstanding dues from the various States which have used IAF aircraft and helicopters for the Chief Ministers and the other Ministers, and

(b) the States which have fully or partially paid such dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) (a) and (b) The respective State Governments are being reminded at frequent intervals. As a result, an amount of Rs 6.78 crores has been recovered from the State Governments/Union Territories during the first quarter of 1996-97. Details of outstanding as on 30.6.96, against the State Governments/Union Territories are given in the enclosed statement

STATEMENT

Details of Outstanding Payments towards the Airlift Charges from the State Govts./U.T. Admns. - as on 30.6.1996

S.No.	Name of the States	Amount outstanding (in Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Assam	16,57,865/-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	21,09,343/-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	7,07,79,047/-
4.	Bihar	16,25,000/-
5.	Delhi	3,81,062/-
6.	Gujarat	2,13,33,333/-
7.	Himachal Pradesh	90,19,166/-
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,12,95,411/-
9.	Karnataka	65,000/-
10.	Kerala	32,82,508/-
11.	Manipur	41,11,409/-
12.	Meghalaya	20,64,870/-
13.	Mizoram	14,53,217/-
14.	Nagaland	35,52,096/-
15.	Orissa	5,76,677/-
16.	Punjab	10,78,344/-
17.	Rajasthan	1,21,60,418/-
18.	Sikkim	6,42,884/-
19.	Tamil Nadu	47,11,374/-
20.	Tripura	5,00,084/-
21.	Uttar Pradesh	81,697/-
22.	West Bengal	1,03,55,916/-
23.	Andaman and Nicobar	1,15,69,227/-
	Total	17,44,05,948/-

[English]

Indian Fishermen in Custody of Pakistan and Bangladesh

538. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1122 on December 4, 1995 regarding Indian fishermen in custody of neighbouring countries and state

(a) the efforts made by the High Commission of India in Pakistan and Bangladesh to get release Indian fishermen in custody there and the outcome thereof,

(b) the number of such fishermen who have since been released from the custody of Pakistan and Bangladesh and repartriated to India,

(c) the number of Indian fishermen still languishing in jails in Pakistan and Bangladesh as on June 30, 1996, and

(d) the efforts being made to get them released and repartriated?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) (a) The Government is making sustained efforts to seek the release of all the Indian fishermen presently in Pakistan and Bangladesh custody. With regard to Pakistan, the Government have also agreed to Pakistan's proposal for holding technical level talks on the subject and are awaiting Pakistan's response regarding the dates and venue for the talks.

(b) As a result of Government's efforts 17 fishermen were released from Pakistani jails and repartriated to India during the last three years in Bangladesh, as per information available fishermen who are caught by Bangladesh authorities are detained for a period of one month and then sent back to India.

(c) In Pakistan,198 Indian fishermen are in the custody as on 30.6.96. For Bangladesh, data on the exact number of fishermen in custody of local authorities is not available as the information regarding the release of the fishermen from jails and